

RECEIVED BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

2

1

3

4

5

7

9

10 11

12

1415

13

16

18

17

19 20

2122

23

24

25

26

27

1999 APR 26 P 3: 41

Commissioner-Chairman

TONY WEST

Commissioner
CARL J. KUNASEK

Commissioner

JIM IRVIN

AZ CORP COMMISSION DOCUMENT CONTROL Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

APR 2 7 1999

DOCKETED BY

IN THE MATTER OF:

FOREX INVESTMENT SERVICES CORPORATION 2700 North Central Avenue, Suite 1110 Phoenix, Arizona 85004

et al.,

Respondents.

DOCKET NO. S-3177-I

RESPONDENTS' POST-HEARING MEMORANDUM

Respondents¹ submit their Post-Hearing Memorandum.² The Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") should dismiss all allegations set forth in the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing against Respondents.

I. Introduction.

Despite the State's contentions, this case does not involve an international conspiracy. These proceedings are the result of the actions of one person; James Simmons, a rogue salesman of FISC. Mr. Simmons took advantage of personal relationships he had with several individuals; provided false information to them; misrepresented his credentials and induced them to invest in FISC. Only Mr. Simmons engaged in this course of conduct, however, and only Mr. Simmons should be responsible

¹ The term "Respondents as used in this brief refers to all Respondents with the exception of Mr. Simmons. All individual Respondents will be referred to by their last names, with the exception of Peter Suen Suk Tak, who will be called "Mr. Suen." Forex Investment Services Corporation will be referred to as FISC; Eastern Vanguard Forex Limited will be referred to as "EVFL", while Eastern Vanguard Group will be referred to as "EVG." Finally, Y&T, Inc. will be referred to as "Tokyo." Hearing Exhibits will be cited herein as "(Ex. ___)". The hearing transcripts will be cited as "(R.T. __/__/98, at ___.)

² Respondents still claim that the Commission lacks jurisdiction over this matter, and the arguments in this brief in no way constitute a waiver of that argument. Rather, this brief addresses the substantive issues that would be present if the Commission wrongfully assumes jurisdiction.

for any wrongdoing. In fact, a search of the hearing transcripts revealed that Mr. Simmons' name was mentioned 1,717 times during the hearing, yet he was not even present. No other Respondent can claim that distinction.

In contrast to the actions of Mr. Simmons, FISC instituted an in-depth training program; FISC made its traders well aware of the risks of foreign currency trading; and FISC never instructed traders to make misrepresentations or defraud investors. FISC's investors were all required to read and sign detailed disclosure documents. Further, FISC's investors received daily or weekly account statements describing in detail the exact condition of their accounts. Finally, the undisputed evidence at the hearing was that all investors' losses were due to market conditions and not any alleged misrepresentations. The remaining Respondents should never have been named, and the Commission should not reward the Division for making this case larger and infinitely more complicated than it is. This brief will first discuss FISC's training program and disclosure documents and will then make the following arguments:

- 1. Respondents FISC, EVFL, Tokyo, Mr. Cho, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng and Mr. Sharma have no primary liability for any violations of the Arizona Securities Act. (hereinafter "the Securities Act" or "the Act.")
- 2. Respondents EVG, Tokyo, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Lee and Mr. Suen are not liable as controlling persons pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1999 for any violations of the Act.
 - 3. None of the Respondents have violated the anti-fraud provisions of the Act.
- 4. The Commission must use its discretion and only order Mr. Simmons to pay restitution and an administrative penalty.

II. FISC's training program and disclosure documents were designed to educate its traders and to ensure that investors received full disclosure.

The simplest way to establish that none of the Respondents violated the Securities Act is to analyze FISC's training program. FISC's training program was designed to educate its traders regarding foreign currency trading. A small portion of the training was devoted to how to discuss investments in FISC with potential investors. A review of the training program reveals that FISC took great lengths to explain foreign currency training to its traders, to highlight the risks involved, and to ensure that traders did not make any misstatements to potential investors. Mr. Simmons' inability to follow FISC's guidelines and his affirmative misstatements should not be imputed to the remaining Respondents.

The evidence regarding FISC's training program is particularly compelling because it came primarily from Division witnesses William Nagorny and Willis Scott, both of whom went through the program. The formal training program at FISC lasted for approximately two months, but traders were told that they needed to constantly continue to educate themselves regarding foreign currency trading. The training included classroom instruction, drills, an examination, and mock trading. The FISC training program was so invaluable and informative that Mr. Scott features it on his resume. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 301-02; Ex. R-8.) The following is a non-exhaustive list of the numerous topics covered during FISC's training program:

- 1. The factors that could affect the value of a particular currency;
- 2. What a market order was;
- 3. How to open and close a position;
- 4. What a limit order was;
- 5. The procedures for placing an order at FISC;
- 6. The set-up of FISC's office;
- 7. The identity of FISC's "dealer," and the dealer's responsibilities;

- 8. How to calculate profit and loss for a particular trade;
- 9. How to minimize losses;
- 10. What "floating profit and loss" were;
- 11. What a "breaking point" and a "tolerance level" were;
- 12. What technical and fundamental analysis were;
- 13. How to use technical analysis to make trades; and
- 14. How to calculate "support" and "resistance" levels;

(R.T. 8/28/98, at 291-94, 298-300, 304-07; R.T. 9/1/98, at 646-51.)

The training program also had numerous handouts, which are found in exhibits R-9 through R-36. Traders were specifically instructed regarding the risks and pitfalls of foreign currency trading, the cardinal mistakes in foreign currency trading, and the myriad ways by which traders could lose their money. (Ex R-12.) Traders also received a document that talked specifically about the risks in foreign currency trading and explained that most foreign currency traders were unsuccessful. (Ex. R-13.) These materials, which were specifically reviewed with the traders, were replete with references to the incredibly risky nature of foreign currency trading. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 320-31; R.T. 9/1/98, at 653-56; Ex. R-12, R-13.) The testimony of Mr. Nagorny and Mr. Scott, along with the reams of material provided by FISC, ensured that no individual who sat through the training program would be unaware of the tremendous risk in foreign currency trading.

FISC's Customer Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement were also designed to ensure that FISC investors were fully advised of the risks of foreign currency trading. (See Ex. R-47-48.) These documents were signed by all FISC investors at the time they invested. Mr. Nagorny recounted how the instructors in the training program went over the Customer Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement line-by-line to ensure that the traders understood it and could explain it to potential investors. (R.T.

9/1/98, at 667-678.) Mr. Cho specifically told the traders that they had to review the Risk Disclosure Statement with all potential investors; that they must discuss risk with potential clients; and that they must not make any promises or guarantees. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 207-08; R.T. 10/8/98, at 2186-93.)

Further, these documents contained numerous statements regarding the speculative nature of an investment in foreign currency trading. The language in this documents is crucial because it is undisputed that all FISC investors received and signed a Customer Agreement and Risk Disclosure Statement. Some excerpts from the disclosure documents are as follows:

- 1. The Risk Disclosure Statement required the customer to sign and acknowledge "reading and understanding and accepting the Risk Disclosure Statement."
- 2. The Risk Disclosure Statement stated that "[t]he risk of loss in trading spot currencies, hereinafter called investment contracts, can be substantial."
- 3. The Risk Disclosure Statement further stated that "[t]he customer should carefully consider whether such trading is suitable for customer, in light of customer's financial resources."
- 4. The Risk Disclosure Statement also stated that "[t]he customer may sustain a total loss of the initial margin funds."
- 5. The Risk Disclosure Statement also talked about stop orders, but stated that "EVF will not guarantee execution of such stop loss orders in volatile markets."

(Ex. S-57.)

- 6. The Customer Agreement included, but was not limited to, the following disclosures:
- a. "Any consequences whatsoever that may result from the investment orders of customer, customer hereby acknowledges and admits that customer will take full obligation and responsibility."

b. "Although such orders may be based on opinion given by any one of EVF employees or independent investment consultants or agents, customer hereby further acknowledges and admits that customer fully understands that such opinion does not assure customer of any profit resulting from such trading."

c. "The customer declares that the contents of this agreement have been fully explained to customer in a language customer understands and that customer is in agreement with the contents of this agreement."

(Ex. S-57.)

Individuals who did not trade their own accounts at FISC signed a document entitled "Addendum to Customer Agreement." (Ex. S-57.) The following excerpts from the Addendum emphasized the risks of an investment with FISC:

- 1. "As the servicing company between Eastern Vanguard Forex Ltd. and it's clients, [FISC] sincerely appreciates your business and to assure the total commitments to our professional codes and ethical conducts, and to provide protection in the best interest of our clients against any financial sufferance arising from misleading information, misrepresentation, and the extreme extent [sic], possible occurrence of fraud, it is our duty and responsibility to inform you that our company policy strictly prohibits our employees, agents, and/or officers to make promises or to enter into any agreements, oral or written, with our clients to engage in certain activities. These restricted activities include, but [are] not limited to, profit sharing schemes, profit guaranteeing schemes, and/or the receiving of any award whether in cash or in any other forms."
- 2. "Any track record, Forex Exchange investment portfolio profit earnings, positive rate of [return] or trading transactions and any or all activities previously presented by anyone should not be

considered as an indication and/or representation, and/or promise, and/or guarantee of any profits in 1 actual trading." 2 (Ex. S-57.) 3 The training program also provided specific instruction that traders were *not* to make 4 5 misrepresentations to potential investors. (R.T. 9/8/98, at 2186-93.) As the following excerpts from 6 Mr. Scott's testimony demonstrate,. Mr. Cho went out of his way ensure that traders provided full and 7 accurate disclosure to potential investors: 8 Q. [MR. BASKIN] ... Isn't it true that Michael told you that you have to disclose the risk to 9 customers, to potential customers? 10 You mean give it to them or tell them about it? A. 11 12 Tell them about it, tell them that there's risk involved. Q. 13 A. Yes. 14 Isn't it true that Michael told you that you could lose money and you could lose a lot of Q. 15 money in currency trading? 16 A. Yes. He did state that. 17 Isn't it true that Michael said it was a very high risk market, or words to that effect? Q. 18 I believe so. Yes. A. 19 20 21 And it's Michael that said don't steal from grandma? Q. 22 A. Yes. 23 And didn't Michael say that if any trader made a specific promise of a return, that they Q. 24 would be let go? 25 I believe he did say that. Yes. A. 26 27

	Τ.
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
1	0
1	1
1	2
1	3
1	4
1	5
1	6
1	7
1	8
1	9
2	0
2	1
2	2
2	3
2	4
2	5
2	6

- Q. And didn't Michael say that if anyone made any guarantees to customers, that the firm would have to let them go?
- A. I believe he also said that, too.
- Q. Michael never told you to go out and tell particular potential customers that I promise you're not going to lose more than X amount of money on your account?
- A. No. He never stated that.
- Q. And did he ever tell you to exaggerate or lie about your trading abilities?
- A. No. I kind of don't understand the question.
- Q. Did he ever tell you to go out and say I'm the best damn trader there is?
- A. No.
- Q. Michael's the one that told you that Mr. Simmons was incorrect when he made the statement that Eastern Vanguard was affiliated with the Vanguard family of funds, correct
- A. That's correct.

(R.T. 8/28/98, at 350-52.)

FISC and Mr. Cho were committed to giving accurate information to investors. Otherwise, we would have heard a completely different story from Mr. Scott and Mr. Nagorny. The statements made by Mr. Simmons were in direct conflict to the specific training provided by FISC. Mr. Simmons' statements were obviously his own and no one else's, and the remainder of this brief establishes that none of the Respondents are legally responsible for Mr. Simmons' conduct.

III. The Division has failed to establish that Tokyo, Mr. Cho, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng and Mr. Sharma have primary liability for any violations of the Arizona Securities Act.

The Division alleges that Tokyo, Mr. Cho, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng and Mr. Sharma have primary liability for the alleged violations of the Arizona Securities Act. The applicable caselaw and the

evidence presented at hearing establish that the Division is wrong and all allegations against the above Respondents must be dismissed.

A. Law regarding participant liability.

If the Commission errs and concludes that it has jurisdiction over this matter, it must still determine whether Respondents offered or sold investments in FISC within the meaning of A.R.S. § 44-1841(A) and 44-1991. A.R.S. § 44-2032(1) authorizes the Division to bring administrative actions against any "person" who violates the Act. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2003, however, liability for violations of the Act extends only to individuals who "made, participated in or induced the unlawful sale or purchase..." A.R.S. § 44-2003; *Standard Chartered PLC v. Price Waterhouse*, 190 Ariz. 6, 17-23, 945 P.2d 317, 328-34 (App. 1996) *review denied*, October 21, 1997.

The Arizona Court of Appeals has recently set forth the standard necessary to establish liability for "participating" or "inducing" the sale of securities for purposes of A.R.S. § 44-2003. *Standard Chartered*, 190 Ariz. at 17-23, 945 P.2d at 328-34.³ The court held that a party must "partake" in the sale of securities in order to "participate" in the transaction. *Id.* at 21, 945 P.2d at 332. To induce the sale of securities, a party must purposefully or intentionally cause the sale. *Id.* at 21-22, 945 P.2d at 332-33. Likewise, a party must "persuade" or "prevail" upon another individual to buy a security in order to "induce" the sale of securities. *Id.* at 21-22, 945 P.2d at 332-33.

The court further held that to make, participate in or induce the sale of a security: 1) a party must have more than a collateral role in the sale; and 2) any alleged misstatements made by the party must go

The Standard Chartered decision construed the terms "participated in" and "induced" under the former version of A.R.S. § 44-2003, which applied only to actions brought under A.R.S. §§ 44-2001 and 44-2002. A.R.S. § 44-2003, however, has been amended, and now also applies to actions brought under A.R.S. § 44-2032. The amended version of A.R.S. § 44-2003 includes the "participated in" and "induced" language that was in the earlier version of the statute. Also, the court in Standard Chartered declined to apply caselaw construing the federal securities statutes. 190 Ariz. at 18, 945 P.2d at 329. Accordingly, the Commission must defer to the court's interpretation of A.R.S. § 44-2003.

beyond "merely [having] the effect of influencing a buyer" to purchase the security. *Id.* at 22, 945 P.2d at 333.

B. The Division presented no evidence that Respondents Tokyo, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng and Mr. Sharma are primarily liable for any violations of the Arizona Securities Act.

The Commission must summarily dismiss the allegations that Respondents Tokyo, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng and Mr. Sharma are primarily liable for any violations of the Arizona Securities Act because the Division presented no evidence to that effect at the hearing. It is undisputed *that none* of the FISC investors ever met, talked to, saw or heard of any of the above individuals regarding a potential investment prior to making their decision to invest.⁴ Further, none of the investors testified that they were investing their money with Tokyo or that they thought Tokyo was involved with their investment.

There is thus no evidence that any of the above sold an investment in FISC, or "partook" in, purposefully caused, or persuaded *anyone* to invest in FISC. *Standard Chartered*, 190 Ariz. at 21-22, 945 P.2d at 332-33. Accordingly, it was impossible for the above to have made, participated in or induced the sale of investments in FISC, and they cannot be primarily liable. *Id*. The primary liability allegations against the above must be dismissed.

C. Mr. Cho should not be held primarily liable for any violations of the Securities Act.⁵

The Division is likely to argue that Mr. Cho is somehow primarily responsible for all of the investments made in FISC. As a threshold matter, Mr. Cho resigned from FISC on October 31, 1997, did not participate in the management of FISC after that date, was not paid by FISC after October 31st,

⁴ Although Mr. Nagorny and Mr. Scott may have heard of Mr. Tam prior to their investments, he played no role in their decisions to invest.

⁵ The Notice does not allege that Mr. Cho is liable as a controlling person and the Division is thus limited to arguing primary liability.

and cannot be responsible for any investments in FISC made after that time. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2245-46; R.T. 8/28/97, at 297.) This evidence was corroborated by Division witnesses William Nagorny and Willis Scott, who were working for FISC when Mr. Cho left.⁶ The following discussion of the evidence presented at the hearing establishes that Mr. Cho is not primarily liable for any violations of the Act.

1. Mr. Cho did not sell an investment in FISC to Alan Davis.

Alan Davis' testimony was an unfortunate example of an individual who has lost money and was willing to say and do anything that may help him recover his funds, regardless of whether the truth goes trampled in the process. Mr. Davis was a friend of Mr. Simmons form Roadway, and Mr. Simmons made a series of misrepresentations to Mr. Davis to induce him to invest. Mr. Simmons, *not Mr. Cho*, made these statements and sold the FISC investment to Mr. Davis. On direct examination, Mr. Davis testified in great detail regarding a meeting he had at FISC with Mr. Simmons prior to making his decision to invest in FISC. (R.T. 8/27/98, at 111-17.) Mr. Davis specifically testified that he did *not* meet Mr. Cho during his first visit to FISC. (*Id.* at 117.) Rather, after meeting with Mr. Simmons, Mr. Davis was very "excited" because of all the statements *Mr. Simmons* made to him. (*Id.* at 117-18.). Mr. Davis: "went home and talked with my wife, and *we decided to open an account* up with Forex through James." (*Id.* at 119.)

After deciding to invest, Mr. Davis went to the FISC offices for a second meeting, and Mrs. Davis came with him. (Id. at 126-27.) At this meeting, the Davises met with Mr. Simmons, who reviewed the customer agreement with them and completed the necessary paperwork. (Id.) Only "after" the new account paperwork was completed did Mr. Davis meet Mr. Cho. (Id. at 138.) According to Mr. Davis, Mr. Cho "just said, congratulations for opening an account, and just, we were introduced." (Id. at

⁶ Mr. Cho returned to FISC in early December 1997 to assist Ms. Shumway in closing her account, and he also met with Alan Davis at that time. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2250-51.) Mr. Cho returned to FISC as a favor to Mr. Tam to help assist him with customer problems caused by Mr. Simmons and was not compensated for his efforts. (*Id.*)

138-39.) Mr. Davis agreed that there was "no doubt in [his] mind" that he met Mr. Cho for the first time after he had invested and Mr. Cho performed the ministerial task of receiving Mr. Davis' check. (R.T. 9/9/98, at 868.)

After describing in detail on direct examination the *two* meetings he had with Mr. Simmons at FISC, there was a break of over one week before Mr. Davis completed his testimony. Unfortunately for Mr. Davis, the gap between his testimony affected his ability to keep his story straight regarding some very basic information, which is the type of problem that only afflicts those who take liberties with the truth. When Mr. Davis was cross-examined, he was asked an innocuous question regarding his earlier testimony that he met with Mr. Simmons at FISC and then came back a second time to invest. (R.T. 9/9/98, at 865.) Mr. Davis altered his testimony and testified very specifically that the *first* time he went to FISC's office is when he invested and that he had never previously been to the office. (*Id.* at 865-67.) He continued to change his testimony and stated that Mr. Simmons mailed the new account documentation to him, whereas he had previously testified that Mr. Simmons had given him this documentation at the first meeting. (*Id.* at 867; R.T. 8/27/98, at 120.)

Changes in testimony such as Mr. Davis' must not be taken lightly. He did not forget a detail; he eliminated an entire meeting that had been a primary focus of his earlier testimony. The only thing that is certain is that Mr. Davis fabricated his story. Unfortunately, counsel lacks the wisdom to know which story or which portions of Mr. Davis' story were fabricated. The Commission must give no weight to this witness' testimony.

In any event, according to *both* of Mr. Davis' versions of events, the evidence at hearing conclusively established that Mr. Simmons had a preexisting relationship with Mr. Davis; Mr. Simmons made the pre-investment representations to him; Mr. Simmons met alone with Mr. Davis at FISC to induce him to invest; Mr. Davis decided to invest before he met Mr. Cho; Mr. Simmons sold the FISC

investment to Mr. Davis; and Mr. Simmons completed the new account paperwork for the Davises. Mr. Cho simply did not make, participate in or induce the sale of any investment to Mr. Davis.

2. Mr. Cho did not offer or sell an investment in FISC to Melba and Dean Davis.

After Alan Davis invested in FISC, he told his parents Dean and Melba Davis about his investment, and his relationship with Mr. Simmons, and repeated to them the representations "James [Simmons]" had made to them regarding the expected return on an investment with FISC. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 421-22.) "After I had met with James at work and spoke to him and opened my account, I was excited and I went home and told my parents about my new investment and what it would do, and explained it to my father and mother." (R.T. 9/9/98, at 739.) Mr. Davis then spoke with Mr. Simmons, not Mr. Cho, about the possibility of the elder Davis' investing. (Id. at 741-742.)

Dean and Melba decided to invest based on information *Alan* provided them about FISC. (*Id.* at 743-44; R.T. 9/10/98, at 1014-17.) In particular, Melba invested based on information she believed Alan was getting from Mr. Simmons; not Mr. Cho. (R.T. 9/10/98, at 1014-17.) *After* the elder Davis' made their decision to invest, they met with Mr. Simmons at FISC to formalize their investment. (R.T. 9/9/98, at 745-46.) The Davises did not meet Mr. Cho until *after* they had completed the documents evidencing their investment. (*Id.* at 747; R.T. 9/10/98, at 967.) In other words, Mr. Cho did not sell the FISC investment to Melba and Dean Davis; Alan Davis and James Simmons did.

3. Mr. Cho did not offer or sell an investment in FISC to Ruth and Van Shumway.

Van and Ruth Shumway invested in FISC after learning about it from Dean Davis and then meeting with Mr. Simmons. (R.T. 9/10/98, at 1062-75.) Before investing in FISC, the Shumways made two visits to FISC's office. They met Mr. Cho during their first visit and did nothing more than exchange pleasantries. (R.T. 9/14/98, at 1425.) The Shumways next met Mr. Cho after they had invested and given their check to Mr. Simmons. (R.T. 9/10/98, at 1071-78.) According to

Ms. Shumway, Mr. Cho "just greeted us and said that he was happy that we had decided to invest with him, just the usual." (R.T. 9/10/98, at 1082.) Further, Ms. Shumway agreed that she was not "terribly concerned" about asking questions of Mr. Cho because the Shumways were dealing with Mr. Simmons and they believed Mr. Simmons would give them all necessary information about FISC. (R.T. 9/14/98, at 1425.)

4. Mr. Cho did not offer or sell an investment in FISC to Michael Noriega

Mr. Noriega worked at Roadway with Alan Davis, who referred Mr. Noriega to Mr. Simmons for an investment in FISC. (R.T. 9/11/98, at 1202-04.) Mr. Noriega then had several conversations with Mr. Simmons regarding FISC, and based upon Mr. Simmons' recommendations, decided to open an FISC account. (*Id.* at 1203-07.) According to Mr. Noriega, Mr. Simmons "was the person that I knew and I trusted." (*Id.* at 1208.) As was the case with the Davises and the Shumways, Mr. Cho played no role in Mr. Noriega's investment decision, nor did Mr. Cho solicit an investment from Mr. Noriega. Rather, Mr. Simmons introduced Mr. Noriega to Mr. Cho *after* Mr. Noriega gave his check to Mr. Simmons. (*Id.* at 1211-12.) Further, on cross-examination, Mr. Noriega admitted that when he met Mr. Cho, they did not discuss Forex trading or anything else, because Mr. Noriega was relying on Mr. Simmons. (*Id.* at 1264.)

5. Mr. Cho did not offer or sell an investment in FISC to Willis Scott.

As detailed above, Mr. Scott went through the training program at FISC, and subsequently opened an account. He opened his account, however, with full, first-hand knowledge of the risks associated with foreign currency trading. In fact, during his mock trading at FISC, he achieved extremely poor results in his account. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 373-74.)

Mr. Scott opened his account on October 30, 1997, the day before Mr. Cho left FISC, and did not make any trades until after Mr. Cho left FISC. (R.T. 8/28/98, 297, 361, 370; Ex. R-38.) Mr. Scott and

everyone else at FISC knew Mr. Cho was leaving when he (Mr. Scott) opened his account. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 361; R.T. 10/8/98, at 2245.) Mr. Scott testified that Mr. Cho left FISC "within a day of me actually opening my account," and Mr. Scott was aware that Mr. Cho would not be helping manage his account. (*Id.* at 297, 361.)

Mr. Cho was extremely concerned about Mr. Scott's ability to manage his account. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2247-48.) Mr. Cho told Mr. Scott that he was not in favor of Mr. Scott opening an account and urged him (Mr. Scott) to exercise extreme caution in his trading. (*Id.*) According to Mr. Scott, when he decided to open his account, he had the following interaction with Mr. Cho: "He [Mr. Cho] asked me if he thought -- he asked me if I was sure I could do it, and I told him I believed I could. And he wished me luck, and we shook hands, and he left shortly afterwards." (R.T. 8/28/98, at 404.)

Mr. Scott consulted with Mr. Simmons regarding what trades to make in his account, but ultimately made his own decisions. (*Id.* at 297-98, 361-62, 373-75.) Mr. Scott's testimony regarding Mr. Cho's complete lack of involvement with his account is compelling: "Michael didn't make any decisions as far as, you know, going over what I need to do or anything else to make the decisions I made. I don't hold him to be responsible for bad decisions that I made." (*Id.* at 298.) Mr. Scott's point is well taken.

6. Mr. Cho did not offer or sell an investment in FISC to Julius Nagorny.

William Nagorny, not Mr. Cho, offered and sold an investment in FISC to his father, Julius Nagorny. William Nagorny also went through the training program described above, and testified that he never would have induced his father to invest had he been troubled by *anything* in the training program. (R.T. 9/1/98, at 664.) He was well aware of the risks involved in foreign currency trading; he had in-depth instruction regarding FISC's disclosure documents; he solicited his father for an investment

in FISC; and he did all of the trading and made all of the ultimate decisions in his father's account. (R.T. 9/1/98, at 621-22, 664-66, 687.)

Mr. Cho *never* talked to Julius Nagorny about FISC. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2248-49.) Further, the Nagorny account was opened on October 28, 1997, three days before Mr. Cho left FISC; its first trades were *after* Mr. Cho had left; and Mr. Cho played no role in the management of the account. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2248-49; R.T. 9/1/98, at 627-28, 685-87.)

The following colloquy reveals that the responsibility for the losses in the Nagorny account belongs with no one other than Mr. Nagorny:

- Q. [MR. BASKIN] So you wanted supervision, but you continued to just -- you continued to trade, despite the fact that you weren't getting that supervision, correct?
- A. [MR. NAGORNY] Yes.
- Q. Didn't you tell me that you wanted to keep trading because you liked doing this?
- A. I liked the technical analysis, and I liked that this was an investment job.
- Q. And because this was your dad's account, and because you were doing the trading, you at any time could have pulled up the stakes, correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You could have stopped, correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. There was never a time when you had to make a trade, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And if you had been concerned about the lack of supervision, about the stop loss problems that you talked about earlier, and about the volatility of the currency markets, you just could have pulled the plug and walked away, correct?

	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
1	0
1	1
1	2
1	3
1	4
1	5
1	6
1	7
1	8
1	9
2	0
2	1
2	2
2	3
2	4
2	5
2	6
2	7

A.	Yes.

- Q. And as close as one week before we get into the yen situation, you could have walked away with over \$49,000, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. But you decided you wanted to keep trading, correct?
- A. I wanted to. Yes.
- Q. And you decided to keep trading, despite the fact that you didn't have the supervision you wanted, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Despite the fact that you felt bad about had happened with the stop losses?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you also had a sense by this point that the market was volatile –
- A. Yes.

(R.T. 9/1/98, at 629-31.)

The above excerpt is only a portion of the testimony establishing that Mr. Nagorny was the individual responsible for inducing his father to invest and for losing his money. Mr. Cho was not part of the Nagorny investment equation; he did not offer or sell any investment in FISC to Julius Nagorny; and he did not participate in the management of the account. Accordingly, he has no liability for Mr. Nagorny's investment.

7. Mr. Cho should not be liable for any of the losses in Joseph Saxon's account.

Probably the tallest tales told at the hearing came from FISC investor Joseph Saxon. Mr. Saxon, a college graduate with a degree in criminal justice, went through the training program at Tokyo in San Francisco in 1995. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1831, 1837.) He then worked as a trader for Tokyo, and had *two*

accounts at Tokyo in 1996 prior to opening his FISC account in 1997. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2266, 2269.) In addition to his college education and experience as a trader at Tokyo, Mr. Saxon took a two year long class in investments and received a "certificate." (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1831-36.)

While Mr. Saxon attended Tokyo's training program, he learned, among other things, about the risk in the currency markets, how to open and close positions, how to read account statements, and how to determine whether he had lost or made money on a trade. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1839, 1843-44; R.T. 10/8/98, at 2264-65; R.T. 10/13/98, at 2584.) Mr. Cho traded Mr. Saxon's first account at Tokyo, which Mr. Saxon closed with a profit. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2267-68.) Mr. Saxon testified in great detail regarding his ability to "freeze" and close the first account after it had earned a profit. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1850-58.) In doing so, Mr. Saxon demonstrated his knowledge of and ability to complete the relevant forms required by Tokyo to close his account. (*Id.*; R-56.)

Mr. Saxon opened a second account at Tokyo in September 1996, which he traded by himself. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1858-59.) When Mr. Saxon traded his own account he picked the positions to open; he completed order tickets; he studied his account statements; and he made his own decisions. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1822-24; R.T. 10/8/98, at 2270.) Further, Mr. Saxon read about currencies, had computer software related to technical analysis and also subscribed to informational services regarding investments. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2270.) The second account, however, lost money. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1821-22.) Mr. Saxon closed the account, and he was once again able to successfully use the documents required by Tokyo to do so. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1868-69; R-62.)

After he closed his second account, Mr. Saxon learned that Mr. Cho had accepted a position with FISC and contacted Mr. Cho in Phoenix. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2273-74.) Mr. Saxon told Mr. Cho that he had been very successful trading futures since he had left Tokyo. (*Id.* at 2275.) Mr. Saxon asked Mr. Cho to trade his account and also asked Mr. Cho to send him the FISC new account documentation.

(*Id.* at 2276.) When Mr. Saxon spoke with Mr. Cho about opening a Phoenix account, Mr. Cho never made any promises or guarantees to Mr. Saxon. (*Id.* at 2276-77; R.T. 9/17/98, at 1871-72.) Mr. Cho merely told Mr. Saxon that he would manage the account to the best of his ability. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1871-72.)

Mr. Saxon deposited \$30,000 and permitted his account to lose nearly all of that money. According to Mr. Saxon, on June 5, 1997, after his account declined from \$30,000 to \$17,000 he contacted Mr. Cho because he wanted to close his account due to "cash flow" problems. (R.T. 9/11/98, at 1347, 1349.) Mr. Saxon then alleged that Mr. Cho and he agreed that Mr. Cho would close the account if its equity reached \$35,000. (*Id.*) Mr. Saxon made the novel claim that Mr. Cho was supposed to double his account (take it from \$17,000 to \$35,000) by "being conservative and preserv[ing] my capital." (R.T. 9/11/98, at 1350-51; R.T. 9/16/98, at 1879-80.) Mr. Saxon claimed that Mr. Cho disregarded his instructions and failed to close the account when its equity exceeded \$35,000. A careful analysis of Mr. Saxon's account reveals that his version of events can only be characterized as fiction.

As a threshold matter, Mr. Saxon's allegation that he had "cash flow" problems and called Mr. Cho on June 5, 1997 to close his account is false. Mr. Saxon admitted on cross-examination that it was not his intention to close the account when he called Mr. Cho on that day. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1877-78.) If he truly had "cash flow" problems, he would have closed the account without hesitation. Because this conversation forms the basis of the alleged "agreement," and because Mr. Saxon lied, this testimony calls into question the remainder of Mr. Saxon's version of events.

Further, having had two previous accounts, Mr. Saxon was extremely well-informed regarding two key matters: 1) the volatility associated with trading foreign currencies; and 2) the procedures for closing an account. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1850-58, 1868-69, 1881-82; R-59, R-62.) Further, Mr. Saxon

regularly checked his account balance at FISC, and he called so frequently that he even knew that one of FISC's employees was pregnant. (R.T. 9/11/98, at 1348-49; R.T. 9/17/98, at 1884.)

Within a week of his alleged "agreement" with Mr. Cho, Mr. Saxon's account had doubled and was worth over \$34,000, and on June 13, 1998 its equity exceeded \$36,000. Mr. Saxon claimed that he did not know of the June 13 balance until a "week" or "days" after that date, but he also acknowledged being aware of the June 13 balance when he talked to Mr. Cho later in June. (R.T. 9/11/98, at 1354; R.T. 9/17/98, at 1887.) Despite his knowledge of the June 13th balance, Mr. Saxon did not 1) ask FISC to close his account; or 2) confront Mr. Cho for failing to close the account on June 13th. As the equity in his account increased, Mr. Saxon's "cash flow" problem apparently disappeared.

Mr. Saxon's cross-examination regarding the events of late June 1997 established the far-fetched nature of his testimony:

- Q. [MR. BASKIN] Just so I can understand your testimony, the 26th [of June] is the day that you learned that your balance was at \$37,000 and change, but Michael was not around; correct?
- A. [MR. SAXON] That's right. I asked for Michael, that's correct.
- Q. And you did not -- did you ask the staff to page Michael?
- A. No. I just asked if Michael was there, and he wasn't available.
- Q. And when they said he wasn't available, did you tell them that you had a very important message that you wanted them to get to Michael?
- A. No, sir, I didn't.
- Q. Did you tell them that you had an agreement with Michael to close your account when the balance was over \$37,000, and they needed to contact him immediately?
- A. No, sir, I didn't.

Q.	Did you and it's clear you did not tell them to close your account; correct?
A.	That is correct.
Q.	And you didn't FAX in any of these withdrawal documents on this date also; correct?
A.	That's correct
Q.	And it wasn't until the next day, which was the 27th, that you talked to Michael; correct?
A.	That's correct, sir.
Q.	And by then your account was down to \$23,000 and change; correct?
A.	That's correct.
Q.	And we're talking about June 27th; right?
A.	Uh-huh, yes.
Q.	And it's your testimony that on June 27th, you did not tell Michael to close the account
	correct?
A.	That's correct.
Q.	And you did not, on June 27th, inform anyone at FISC, Tokyo International, or Eastern
	Vanguard Group about your agreement with Michael and how he had violated it; correct
A.	That's correct, sir.
Q.	And it's also correct that you did not ask that FISC assign another trader to your account at
	this time; correct?
A.	That's correct, sir.
Q.	And you did not instruct anyone at FISC to close your account until August 13th of 1997;
is that; corr	ect
A.	Right
	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.

- Q. And the way that you closed your account on August 13th, 1997, was by sending in a payment instruction asking for whatever you had left in your account and signing it; is that correct?
- A. That's correct, sir.
- Q. And after you sent in that payment instruction, you received a check for the \$473 and change; correct?

(R.T. 9/17/98, at 1890-92.)

In other words, Mr. Saxon, despite all of his education, despite all of his experience at Tokyo, despite his so-called risk averse personality, despite his alleged need for "cash flow," despite his knowledge and ability regarding how to quickly close his account at FISC, despite all of his conversations with the FISC staff, and despite his alleged knowledge that Mr. Cho had several times disregarded his instructions to close the account, wants the Commission to believe that he was helpless, and was incapable of asking FISC to close his account. His testimony can only be characterized as perjurious and must be given no weight.

The Commission should also remember that Mr. Saxon is the same individual who not only filed a lawsuit against Mr. Cho and Tokyo, but also embarked on a smear campaign against Tokyo. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1894-96.) He produced slanderous materials regarding Tokyo, packaged it with a Division press release and then began distributing it to the public. (*Id.*; R-71-72.) He then showed up at Mr. Cho's house and told Mr. Cho's parents that Ms. Cho should cooperate with the Division. (R.T. 9/17/98, at 1989-99.) When Mr. Saxon's enormous bias is coupled with the remarkable nature of his testimony, it is obvious that he is lacking in candor. The Commission must reject his testimony in its entirety.

IV. The Division has failed to establish that any of the Respondents have controlling person liability for the alleged violations of A.R.S. § 44-1991.

A. Introduction

The Division alleges that the following Respondents are liable as controlling persons, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1999, for other individuals' violations of A.R.S. § 44-1991: EVG, Tokyo, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen (Peter Suen Suk Tak) and Mr. Zhang. The controlling person allegations are the *only* allegations related to EVG, Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen and Mr. Zhang. With the exception of Mr. Tam, and some other minor exceptions, the Division sought to prove its allegations against the above individuals by introducing corporate records simply stating that the above had a title or occupied some position with EVFL, Tokyo, EVG or FISC. Some of the titles referred to are also the subject of a stipulation filed by the parties. (Ex. S-161.) The Division also introduced evidence that Mr. Wing visited the Phoenix office at least once. This evidence does not meet the ninth circuit standard for proving controlling person liability. The below sections will discuss the law regarding control person liability and will then highlight the complete lack of evidence supporting the Division's allegations.

B. Law regarding control person liability

A.R.S. § 44-1999 states, in pertinent part, that "[e]very person, who, directly or indirectly, controls any person liable for a violation of A.R.S. § 44-1991....shall be liable jointly and severally with and to the same extent as the controlled person to any person to whom the controlled person is liable unless the controlling person acted in good faith and did not directly or indirectly induce the act underlying the action." This provision mirrors Section 20(a) of the 1934 Securities Exchange Act. 15 U.S.C. § 78t(a). There are no Arizona cases interpreting A.R.S. § 44-1999. Arizona courts, however, look to the United States Supreme court and federal court decisions when interpreting provisions of the Securities Act that

are identical or similar to federal securities statutes. *Vairo v. Clayden*, 153 Ariz. 13, 734 P.2d 110 (App. 1987).

The Division's evidence against most of the Respondents appears to be that because they were officers of certain entities, they must have violated the Act. An officer or director of a corporation is not presumptively liable as a controlling person. *Kaplan v. Rose*, 49 F.3d 1363, 1382 (9th Cir. 1994); *Arthur Children's Trust v. Keim*, 994 F.2d 1390, 1396-97 (9th Cir. 1993). Rather, to establish controlling person liability, the Division must show that a primary violation was committed and that the Respondents directly or indirectly controlled the violator. *Paracor Finance v. General Electric Capital Co.*, 79 F.3d 878, 888-89 (9th Cir. 1996). In particular, the Division must show that 1) Respondents actually exercised control over the corporate entities at issue; and 2) Respondents possessed the power to control the activity upon which the primary violation was predicated. *Metge v. Baehler*, 762 F.2d 621, 631 (8th Cir) *cert. denied*, 474 U.S. 1057 (1986), *see also Brown v Enstar Group, Inc.*, 84 F.3d 393, 395 (11th Cir. 1996) *cert. denied*, 117 S.Ct. 950 (1997).

The determination of who is a controlling person is an intensely factual question involving "scrutiny of the defendant's participation in the day-to-day affairs of the corporation and the defendant's power to control corporate actions." *Paracor Finance*, 79 F.3d at 890 (quoting *Kaplan*, 49 F.3d at 1382). Courts do not inquire into an isolated corporate action by a defendant. *Id*.

The *Paracor* facts mirror the present situation as to several of the Respondents. In *Paracor*, investors filed suit alleging federal securities violations against the CEO of a company that made a debenture offering. 79 F.3d at 883. The court found that the CEO was not a controlling person, although he was "at least consulted on every major decision." *Id.* at 890. The CEO knew the offering was taking place and understood what the Placement Memorandum was supposed to disclose, but he never read the Placement Memorandum himself. *Id* He was involved in developing the sales

projections contained in the private placement memorandum, but "at the time, there was no way [the CEO] could be aware that the projections would be used in the Placement Memorandum six months later." *Id.* The investors introduced evidence that the CEO was involved in the management of the corporation, but no evidence he exercised direct or indirect control over the debenture offering in any way. *Id.* at 891.

In holding that the CEO was not a controlling person, the court stated:

The investors have introduced some evidence that Burton [the CEO] was involved in the management of Casablanca, at least on major decisions. However, they have introduced no evidence that Burton exercised direct or indirect control over the debenture offering in any way. Burton was not authorized to act for Casablanca on the matter and was not involved in the preparation of the offering materials. Nor have the Investors submitted any evidence that Burton ever discussed the debenture offering with them . . .

Paracor, 79 F.3d at 891 (emphasis added), see also Kaplan, 49 F.3d at 1382-83 ("[a]lthough Rose's status as an officer and director may not per se establish that he controlled the other defendants, his participation in the daily affairs of a relatively small company . . . suffices to establish a material question of fact whether he was a controlling person) (emphasis added). The above cases demonstrate that the Division cannot establish Respondents' liability based merely upon their titles or their affiliation with EVFL or Tokyo, and that the Division has the burden of proving that Respondents were involved in the day-to-day operations of FISC, which is the entity that offered the investment program at issue.

C. The Division failed to meet its burden of proving the controlling person allegations regarding Mr. Zhang, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen and Mr. Zhang.

The controlling person caselaw, coupled with the lack of evidence presented by the Division, establishes that the above individuals cannot be held responsible as controlling persons. As stated above, with some minor exceptions, the Division sought to prove its allegations against Mr. Zhang, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Wing, and Mr. Suen by introducing corporate records simply

12

11

14

13

15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24 25

26

27

stating that the above had a title or occupied some position with EVFL, Tokyo, EVG or FISC. The Division offered no evidence that the above individuals played any role in the day-to-day operations of FISC, hired or fired FISC's staff, created FISC's training program, instructed traders regarding how to obtain clients, or had any knowledge of the statements made to investors. The following testimony from the Division's witnesses establishes that the Division cannot meet its burden of proving controlling person liability as to the above.

1. Testimony of Mr. Smedinghoff

The testimony of the Division investigator Michael Smedinghoff conclusively established that none of the individuals named above are liable as control persons. The following excerpts from Mr. Smedinghoff's testimony demonstrate the Division's inability to support the controlling person allegations.

- [MR. BASKIN] Now, can you tell us what specific evidence you're aware of that Q. Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang and Ms. Yuen had any involvement in selecting the office in Phoenix for FISC?
- [MR. SMEDINGHOFF] Just the evidence that was presented here in the hearing. A.
- What evidence is that? Q.
- The evidence such as in choosing the office here? Α.
- As in making the specific decision that this is going to be our office. Q.
- I don't believe there's any evidence that states that. A.
- Q. ... With the exception of Mr. Wing and Mr. Tam, Mr. Cho and Mr. Simmons, can you tell us the names of any of the other Respondents who were in Phoenix, Arizona for FISC business?

⁷ Division Exhibit S-74 establishes that Mr. Sharma resigned from EVFL and surrendered his EVFL shares on August 1, 1997.

- 10 11
- 12 13
- 14
- 15
- 16 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25 26
- 27

- Q.
- Can you tell us what specific role Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Ms. Yuen and Mr. Zhang had in formulating the policies and methods under which FISC Eastern Vanguard or Tokyo International would operate?

I don't believe I have any evidence that proves that anybody else was in Phoenix, Arizona.

- A. Evidence concerning the policies?
- Q. Yes.

A.

- I don't believe I can prove anything that they had anything to do with developing policies A. for FISC.
- Are you aware of any evidence that Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Q. Ms. Yuen or Mr. Zhang were involved in interviewing or speaking with Mr. Dionisio Meneses in connection with the decision to make him, I guess you would call him the initial manager of FISC.
- I don't have any direct evidence to that. A.
- Do you have any evidence that Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Q. Ms. Yuen interviewed or spoke with Michael Cho before he was hired to come to the Phoenix office?
- I have no evidence that I know of that they spoke with him. A.
- Are you aware of any specific evidence of Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Q. Mr. Zhang, or Ms. Yuen speaking with or interviewing Mr. Simmons before he was hired as a trader?
- I don't believe so. A.

- Q. Are you aware of any involvement by Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang, or Ms. Yuen in the decision to hire the dealers that were employed by FISC in its Phoenix offices?
- A. I don't believe we have any evidence to that.
- Q. Are you aware of Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang, or Ms. Yuen having any involvement in structuring the training program that has been described in this case wherein potential traders were trained at FISC?
- A. I don't believe so.
- Q. Are you aware of any evidence of Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen being involved in preparing any of the training materials that have been admitted as exhibits in this?
- A. I have no knowledge of that.
- Q. There are a series of brochures that have been admitted in evidence that state or purport to state the names and titles of some of the Respondents. Are you familiar with those documents?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Can you tell the Hearing Officer who drafted those documents?
- A. I assume the company did.
- Q. ... That's not my question. Not what you assume. Can you tell us the name of the person?
- A. Can I testify to who did it? No, I cannot.
- Q. Can you tell us whether Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen gave any instruction to Mr. Meneses, Mr. Cho or Mr. Tam regarding how training should be conducted at FISC's office?

- Q. Can you tell us of any evidence that Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen told any of the traders, Mr. Meneses, Mr. Cho or Mr. Simmons, how to go about soliciting clients?
- A. I cannot testify to that.
- Q. Can you tell us of any evidence that Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen told Mr. Simmons or Mr. Cho to make any of the statements that have been attributed to them at this hearing by any of the State's witnesses?
- A. I don't believe I can testify to that.
- Q. Can you tell us whether Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen had any knowledge that Mr. Simmons or Mr. Cheng made the statements that have been attributed to them at the hearing?
- A. I can't testify to that.
- Q. Can you give us any evidence that Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen had specific knowledge of any of the investment transactions that have been the subject of the witnesses' testimony in this hearing?
- A. I cannot testify to that.
- Q. Can you tell us of any evidence of Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen giving any direction to Mr. Simmons or Mr. Cho?
- A. I cannot testify to that.
- Q. Can you tell us of any evidence that Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Sharma, or Mr. Zhang, just those four gentlemen, told Mr. Tam to do anything on behalf of FISC or Eastern Vanguard or Tokyo International?

A. I can't testify to what they told, talked about.

(R.T. 9-28-98; at 2111-16.)

The above is overwhelming and undisputed evidence that Mr. Zhang, Ms. Yuen, Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma had no involvement in the day-to-day affairs or management of FISC. They did not select the location of FISC's offices; they did not set up the office; they were not at the office for the day-to-day business; they did not participate in hiring or firing employees; they did not participate in or direct the training; they did not give directions to any of FISC's employees; they did not talk to any of FISC's clients. There is no evidence that Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang and Ms. Yuen were ever in Arizona, let alone at FISC's offices. These individuals cannot be liable for Mr. Simmons' conduct under any standard.

2. Testimony of Mr. Cho

The above arguments are further supported by the testimony of Michael Cho during his marathon four day cross-examination by the Division. The entirety of Mr. Cho's testimony regarding the alleged control group was limited to the following:

- 1. A "local businessman" owned Tokyo. (R.T. 10/14/98, at 2721.)
- 2. Mr. Wing was the Chairman of EVFL, and Mr. Tam told Mr. Cho that Mr. Wing was the "big boss." (R.T. 10/14/98, at 2722-23; R.T. 10/15/98, at 2815.)
- 3. Mr. Wing and Mr. Suen visited the Tokyo offices in San Francisco (R.T. 10/14/98, at 2723.)
- 4. Either Mr. Wing or Mr. Suen visited, on one occasion, FISC's offices, but Mr. Cho had no meaningful interaction with them. (R.T. 10/14/98, at 2724-25.)

5. Later in his testimony Mr. Cho recalled that it was Mr. Wing, not Mr. Suen, who visited Phoenix. (R.T. 10/15/98, at 2809-11, 2814.-15) Mr. Cho and Mr. Wing had nothing more than "a casual conversation" about FISC. (*Id.* at 2810.)

3. Testimony of Joseph Saxon

Division witness Joseph Saxon worked as a trader in the Tokyo offices in 1995-96 and then opened an account with FISC in 1997. If anyone would be expected to have knowledge of Tokyo and/or FISC's principals, it was Mr. Saxon. His testimony, however, was silent regarding the involvement of Mr. Tam, Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang and Ms. Yuen in the day-to-day affairs or management of Tokyo or FISC. (R.T. 9/11/98, at 1300-99; 9/17/98, at 1804-1910.)

4. Testimony of Willis Scott and William Nagorny

Division witness Willis Scott was a trader at FISC for over four and one-half months. During that time frame he never met or heard of Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 295-96.) Mr. Scott was unable to provide any testimony regarding whether the above had any involvement with FISC. (*Id.* at 296.)

Division witness William Nagorny also worked as a trader at FISC from August through December 1997. Like Mr. Scott, Mr. Nagorny also never met or heard of Mr. Wing, Mr. Suen, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Zhang or Ms. Yuen. (R.T. 9/1/98, at 641-42.) He had "no idea" who they were. (*Id.* at 642.)

5. Testimony of Mary Goss

Mary Goss was employed at FISC from approximately March 1996 until August or September 1996. Although she had heard Mr. Wing's name, her testimony on cross-examination established that none of the Respondents from Hong Kong can be classified as controlling persons:

1	Q.	[MR. BASKIN] Now, some questions about the visitors to the company. The only name
2		that you recognized was Sammy, right?
3	A.	[MS. GOSS] Right.
4	Q.	And basically some people came into town a couple of times while you were working
5		there; is that correct?
6	A.	Correct.
7	Q.	And you can't tell us about meetings that you attended where you were directed to do
8		certain things by these gentlemen, can you?
10	A.	No.
11	Q.	And you can't tell us what the specificwell, first, you can only tell us that you recognized
12		one person's name; right?
13	A.	Right.
14	Q.	So you can't tell us the names of any of these other people; correct?
15	A.	Correct.
16	Q.	And you can't tell us that this is the guy who sat down and said we need to open up the
18		Phoenix office; correct?
19	A.	No. I had nothing to do with anything about that.
20	Q.	And you can't tell us that these are the people that picked the building where the company
21		would be housed; correct?
22	A.	Correct.
23	Q.	And you can't tell us that these are the people that came up with the customer agreements
24		that would be signed; correct?
25 26	A.	Right.
27		
- ·	H	

- Q. You can't tell us that these would be the people that would say we're going to have training and this is how we're going to have training; correct?
- A. Right.
- Q. And you can't tell us whether these people were actually people that were signing any checks that might have come in to FISC; is that correct?
- A. I'm sorry. Could you repeat. I kind of lost track of what your main question was.
- Q. That Sammy and these other [un] known person[s], you can't tell us whether they were actually providing, they personally were providing or had specific responsibilities for providing money to FISC.
- A. Right. I had no direct relationship with any of them, of the corporate involvement with the company. I had a job to do, just basically an accounting clerk, so I wasn't aware of the larger scale details.

(R.T. 9-16-98, 1751-54.)

If none of the Division's witnesses can explain to the hearing officer the involvement of the above individuals in the operations of FISC, the Commission has no basis to determine that they are controlling persons. The Division failed to present sufficient evidence to meet its burden of proving its allegation that some of the Respondents were controlling persons. The Commission must dismiss all controlling person allegations against the above.

D. The Division failed to meet its burden of proving the controlling person allegations regarding Mr. Tam.

The evidence presented at the hearing also failed to establish that Mr. Tam was a controlling person of FISC. Although he had some involvement with FISC, it was not the involvement in "the day-to-day affairs of the corporation" of the corporation required to establish controlling person liability.

Paracor Finance, 79 F.3d at 890. For example, the Division failed to present any evidence of the following:

- 1. that Mr. Tam was an officer, director or shareholder of any of the entities named in the Notice;
 - 2. that Mr. Tam was at FISC's offices on a daily or even regular basis;
 - 3. that Mr. Tam put together FISC's training program;
 - 4. that Mr. Tam provided instruction during the training program;
- 5. that Mr. Tam provided any direction to traders regarding how to manage customer accounts;
 - 6. that Mr. Tam directed traders regarding how to solicit clients;
 - 7. that Mr. Tam solicited potential investors; or
 - 8. that Mr. Tam talked to any FISC investor prior to their investment.

The Division's witnesses once again helped establish that Mr. Tam was not a controlling person. Division witness Willis Scott, who spent four and one-half months at FISC, had the following extremely vague knowledge of Mr. Tam: "[he was] referred to as a couple of times as far as being a person over Mr.-over Mr. Cho, but that's pretty much all I know. (R.T. 8/28/98, at 247.) According to Mr. Nagorny, Mr. Tam "showed up [at FISC] once a month for about an hour or so to do paperwork and leave." (R.T. 9/1/98, at 560.) Mr. Nagorny was not even introduced to Mr. Tam until the day FISC's office closed. (*Id.*)

Mr. Tam's complete lack of involvement in soliciting FISC investors, coupled with his exceedingly limited involvement in the day to day business of FISC, proves that he was not a controlling person of FISC. All allegations against him must be dismissed.

E. The Division failed to meet its burden of proving the controlling person allegations regarding Tokyo.

The evidence at hearing established simply that Tokyo and FISC had a contract providing that Tokyo would provide certain services to FISC. (S-70.) In particular, FISC provided management consulting services and settled orders for FISC. (Id) Towards that end, Mr. Tam devoted a small portion of his time to FISC; FISC placed its trades through Tokyo; and FISC utilized Tokyo documents as "forms." The Division did not present any evidence, however, that Tokyo owned FISC; that Tokyo provided FISC's training program; that Tokyo solicited investors for FISC; or that any FISC investor believed that he was investing with Tokyo, as opposed to FISC.

Further, the Division's four day cross examination of Mr. Cho, who formerly worked at Tokyo and was thus intimately familiar with FISC and Tokyo, did not establish that Tokyo was somehow "controlling" FISC. To the contrary, Mr. Cho testified regarding his move from Tokyo to FISC, his salary negotiations, and the new and different responsibilities he had at FISC. It was apparent from Mr. Cho's testimony that he was taking an entirely different position with an entirely different entity. The two companies were distinct entities, and Tokyo did not control FISC.

F. The Division failed to meet its burden of proving the controlling person allegations regarding EVG.

The evidence at the hearing established that EVFL is one of several companies held by EVG. More importantly, the evidence established that there have *never* been any transfers of funds, direct or indirect, between EVG and EVFL. (S-183.) Once again, this evidence, and the complete lack of evidence that EVG was involved in the day-to-day operations of FISC, is not enough to establish a control relationship.

Moreover, the proper analysis for purposes of this case is whether EVG was involved with *FISC's operations*, not EVFL's. Even if EVG controlled EVFL, this fact would mean nothing unless EVG were

playing a part in the investment at issue here, which related to FISC. There was no evidence to that effect, and all allegations against EVG must be summarily dismissed.

G. The Commission should deny the Division's Motion for an Evidentiary Inference Against Certain Respondents.

The Division filed a motion seeking negative inferences against Respondents Sharma, EVGL, Wing and Suen as a result of their alleged failure to provide records of their compensation, *at any time*, from EVFL. The Division apparently believes that this information will help establish that the above Respondents controlled EVFL.

As the hearing officer is aware, there were numerous conferences regarding the Division's subpoenas for records related to EVFL. The last hearing, which was on November 4, 1998, was not intended to be the last hearing. At the beginning of the hearing, the parties discussed the prospect of the Division taking Mr. Yam's deposition. The hearing officer ordered the Division, "either in lieu of the affidavit or after review of the affidavit to supplement the determination whether they want to depose Mr. Yam, to submit written interrogatories to Mr. Yam specifically designed to at least determine the fields of his knowledge." (R.T. 11/4/98, at 17.)

The parties then began discussing the documents the Division alleged needed to be produced. At the end of the hearing, Respondents' counsel indicated that he needed to speak with Respondents regarding some of the information sought by the Division. (R.T. 11/4/98, at 30, 31.) Counsel indicated that he was going to report the results back to the hearing officer. After talking with the Respondents, counsel was able to procure the affidavit that has been admitted in evidence as Exhibit S-184. Upon reflection after the hearing and careful consideration of the controlling person caselaw, Counsel believed that this affidavit, which stated that any benefit the relevant Respondents received from EVFL came from sources other than FISC, was sufficient to satisfy the Division. Respondents provided the affidavit to the Division in early December 1998. Counsel fully expected, based on the previous pattern of

inform
would
convin
later
oppor
the he
releva
procee
from 1
of EV

informally discussing this issue and then seeking guidance from the hearing officer, that the Division would let counsel know if it believed the affidavit was inadequate. As time passed, counsel became convinced that the Division was satisfied with the affidavit the information it sought. *Three months later* and with no advance notice, the Division filed its Motion. Counsel was deprived of the opportunity to explain the rationale behind the affidavit and asks that another conference be set before the hearing officer rules on the motion, or that the Commission deny it as untimely.

Further, as has been mentioned in other portions of this brief, the information sought is not relevant, because it is the operation of *EVFL solely as it pertains to FISC* that is relevant to this proceeding. Mr. Yam's affidavit specifically stated that none of the Respondents received any benefit from EVFL as it pertained to FISC. Accordingly, evidence of compensation related to other operations of EVFL cannot establish control of FISC and is irrelevant.

This argument is supported by the caselaw discussing the liability of controlling persons in connection with the particular investment program at issue, as opposed to the general activities of the entity offering the investment program. *Paracor Finance*, 793 F.3d at 891 (although CEO was involved in the management of the corporation, he was not a controlling person because there was no evidence he exercised direct or indirect control over the corporation's debenture offering.) In other words, the alleged EVFL "control group" can only be liable upon a showing of control over FISC. The records sought by the Division cannot lead to that conclusion. As such, if the Commission grants the Motion, any "inference" should simply be that the relevant Respondents received a benefit from operations of EVFL *other than operations related to FISC*, which is of no moment here.

23 .

25 | .

26 ...

H. Assuming arguendo that the Division has established that the "control group members" are controlling persons, the allegations against them must be dismissed because the alleged "control group" acted in good faith and did not directly or indirectly induce the conduct at issue.

Assuming arguendo that the Division has established that the "control group" are controlling persons, the allegations against them must be dismissed because the alleged "control group" acted in good faith and did not directly or indirectly induce the conduct at issue. A controlling person is not liable for any violations of the Arizona Securities Act if they "acted in good faith and did not directly or indirectly induce the act underlying the action." A.R.S. § 44-1999. The ninth circuit has noted that evidence establishing that an individual is not a controlling person may also serve as evidence that the same individual acted in good faith. *Paracor Finance*, 79 F.3d at 891 ("the same facts that show Burton's control over Casablanca was less than absolute are sufficient to prove his good faith defense as a matter of law. Burton knew that there was a debenture offering, but the Investors have not introduced evidence that he was involved in its workings in any significant way. Thus, Burton did not 'directly or indirectly induce the act or acts constituting the violation or cause of action.") See also Kaplan v. Rose, 49 F.3d at 1383 (evidence that controlling person did not direct anyone to make false or misleading statements sufficient to establish good faith.)

As in *Paracor Finance*, there is no evidence that *any* of the alleged control group were involved in any significant way with the day-to-day operations of FISC. Likewise, there is no evidence that any of the alleged control group directed *anyone* to make false and misleading statements. Rather, FISC created a training program specifically designed to ensure that investors received full disclosure. The evidence set forth above establishes conclusively that the alleged "control group" acted in good faith and did not directly or indirectly induce any of the violations. There is no evidence to the contrary and all controlling person allegations must be dismissed.

V. The Division has failed to establish any violations by the Respondents of the anti-fraud provisions of A.R.S. § 44-1991.

A.R.S. § 44-1991 is the antifraud provision of the Act. Respondents anticipate that the gravamen of the Division's fraud allegations will be that Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1991(2), which provides that is unlawful to:

Make any untrue statement of material fact, or omit to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading...

The standard of materiality of misrepresented or omitted facts under A.R.S. § 44-1991(2) is objective. *Trimble v. American Sav. Life Ins. Co.*, 152 Ariz. 548, 553, 733 P.2d 1131 (Ct. App. 1986). The standard of materiality also contemplates a "showing of a substantial likelihood that, under the circumstances, the omitted fact would have assumed actual significance in the deliberations of the reasonable [buyer]." *Rose v. Dobras*, 128 Ariz. 209, 214, 624 P.2d 887, 892 (App. 1981) (quoting *T.S.C. Industries, Inc. v. Northway, Inc.*, 426 U.S. 438, 449 (1976). A misrepresented or omitted fact is material only if a reasonable investor would have viewed the misrepresentation or omission as "having significantly altered the total mix of information made available." *Basic, Inc. v. Levinson*, 45 U.S. 224, 231-32 (1988). Respondents do not commit securities fraud merely by failing to disclose all non-public material information in their possession. *Roeder v. Alpha Industries, Inc.*, 814 F.2d 22, 25 (1st Cir. 1987) (citing *Chiarella v. United States*, 445 U.S. 222, 235 (1980)). Only those facts, if any, must be disclosed that are needed so that what was revealed would not be "so incomplete as to mislead." *Backman v. Polaroid Corp.*, 910 F.2d 10, 16 (1st Cir. 1990) (quoting *SEC v. Texas Golf Sulfur Co*, 401 F.2d 833, 862 (2d Cir. 1968) (en banc) *cert denied*, 394 U.S. 976 (1969).

⁸ Again, Respondents' position is that of the United States Supreme Court. The Commission has no jurisdiction over this matter.

Finally, Arizona law now requires that to prove a violation of A.R.S. § 44-1991 the Division must show that: 1) Respondents had more than a collateral role in the transaction; and 2) any alleged misstatements made by Respondents go beyond "merely [having] the effect of influencing a buyer" to purchase the security. *Standard Chartered*, 190 Ariz. at 22, 945 P.2d at 333.

Before discussing the Division's fraud allegations, Respondents note that the above sections established that the Respondents have no primary or controlling person liability for the offer or sale of investments in FISC and render this section superfluous. Because the Division cannot establish any primary or controlling person liability as to Respondents, the Commission need not reach this issue. This section is thus written to briefly address the nucleus of the fraud allegations made by the Division at the hearing. Respondents will address any additional issues raised by the Division in their response to the Division's brief.

Respondents also remind the Commission that any order related to potential violations of the anti-fraud provisions of the Act must be based upon the evidence from the hearing. If anything, the factors discussed above are more obvious here because the Division cannot link Respondents to any of the alleged misrepresentations or material omissions. For example, the Division presented no evidence of any statements Mr. Zhang, Mr. Suen, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Wing, Mr. Tam, Ms. Yuen or Mr. Cho made to members calculated to induce them to invest. Likewise, the Division presented no evidence that these individuals, directly or indirectly, contributed to any of the alleged misrepresentations or omissions by directing anyone to make those statements.

Accordingly, Respondents remind the Commission that the core group of alleged misrepresentations revolve around one individual, Mr. Simmons. It was only Mr. Simmons who falsified his credentials; it was only Mr. Simmons who stated that EVFL was affiliated with the Vanguard Group of mutual funds; it was only Mr. Simmons who misrepresented his family's and his

own investments in FISC; it was only Mr. Simmons who guaranteed a specific return to investors; it was only Mr. Simmons who told investors they would double their money; it was only Mr. Simmons who promised investors that seven out of ten trades would be profitable; it was only Mr. Simmons who minimized the risk involved in foreign currency trading; it was only Mr. Simmons who promised to limit investors' losses to \$300 a trade; and it was only Mr. Simmons who admitted to making some of these statements when the Division took his EUO.

None of the other Respondents should be responsible for the conduct of a rogue broker such as Mr. Simmons. The earlier discussion of FISC's training program, FISC's disclosure documents and Mr. Cho's efforts to ensure that FISC's traders did not make any misrepresentations demonstrate FISC's commitment to provide accurate information to its investors. Further, none of the other Respondents made the misrepresentations attributed to Mr. Simmons, instructed him to make the above misrepresentations, or knew that he was making them to induce individuals to invest. Accordingly, any violations of the anti-fraud provisions of the Securities Act belong to Mr. Simmons, and no other Respondent.

A. The Commission should reject Alan Davis' false allegations regarding Mr. Cho.

Alan Davis falsely alleged that Mr. Cho told him that the Davis' account would earn 3-5% per month and would double within two years, and that Mr. Cho later made similar representations to the elder Davises when they opened their account with Mr. Simmons. (R.T. 8/27/98, at 139; R.T. 9/9/98, at 748, 943.) Mr. Davis was the only witness at the hearing to attribute such a statement to Mr. Cho. Even Mr. Davis' mother contradicted this testimony. Melba Davis specifically testified that when the Davises first met Mr. Cho, he "just introduced himself and said glad to have you with our company, thanked us for investing." (R.T. 9/10/98, at 978; see id. at 1019-20.) Alan Davis' lack of credibility is also corroborated by the testimony of Ruth Shumway and Michael Noriega, neither of whom attributed the

above misrepresentation to Mr. Cho. Mr. Davis' testimony is also contradicted by Mr. Nagorny's and Mr. Scott's testimony that Mr. Cho told them not to make any promises or guarantees to potential investors. Further, Mr. Davis' testimony is even contradicted by the most biased witness of all, Mr. Saxon, who stated that Mr. Cho never promised him a specific return on his investment. (R.T. 10/8/98, at 2276-77.) Finally, as discussed earlier, the Commission should remember that Mr. Davis reinvented his testimony in mid-stream, thus rendering all of his statements inherently unreliable. (R.T. 9/9/98, at 865.) The Commission should not allow Mr. Davis' false testimony to form the basis of a fraud finding against Mr. Cho.

VI. The Division has failed to establish any basis for an order of restitution or rescission.

The above arguments demonstrate that the Respondents have not violated the Securities Act and should, therefore, not be ordered to pay any restitution or administrative penalties. If, however, the Commission disagrees with Respondents and determines that some Respondents have violated the Securities Act, the Commission should use its discretion and not order Respondents to pay any restitution or administrative penalties.

A.R.S. §44-2032(1) provides that the Commission *may* order restitution if it determines that an individual has violated the Securities Act. Likewise, A.R.S. §44-2036 provides that the Commission *may* assess administrative penalties for violations of the Securities Act. A case such as the present one requires a thoughtful exercise of the Commission's discretion and the separate consideration of *each* Respondent's role, or lack of a role in the investment program at issue.

The Division seeks to paint all of the Respondents with the same broad brush strokes. The Commission must reject this approach and recognize that the Division has overreached. This case was brought because of Mr. Simmons' folly. He intentionally disregarded and abused the safeguards in place at FISC, and he also ignored the clear message of FISC's training program. The Division was

unable to prove conduct by any other Respondent that remotely approached that of Mr. Simmons, and was unable to prove that the vast majority of Respondents were ever in Phoenix or talked to any investors, let alone were responsible for controlling the corporate entities at issue. Accordingly, any order must take into account the glaring differences between Mr. Simmons and the other Respondents, along with the questionable credibility of witnesses such as Mr. Saxon and Alan Davis. This case does not involve an international conspiracy, and any order should so reflect.

Finally, the Commission should not order restitution to individuals who traded their own accounts or who traded on behalf of their families, such as Mr. Scott and Mr. Nagorny. These individuals attended FISC's training programs; they were fully advised of the risks in foreign currency trading; they were not pressured to open their own accounts; and they made all investment decisions in their accounts. In addition to Mr. Scott and Mr. Nagorny, the following individuals traded their own accounts: Mr. Benson, Mr. Becker, Mr. Lares, Mr. Fox and Mr. Unlucomert. (Ex. S-138.)

Further, it is undisputed that William Nagorny sold an investment in FISC to Julius Nagorny, yet William Nagorny was not named as a Respondent. Although it is unfortunate that these individuals lost money, Respondents should not be held responsible, particularly when the Division has chosen to not seek to hold individuals such as William Nagorny responsible for a primary violation of the Securities Act. At a minimum, the Commission should not order any restitution to any individuals who traded their own accounts or who traded on behalf of their families.

VII. Conclusion.

Mr. Simmons is the only Respondent who should be subject to a Commission Order. The remaining Respondents are neither primarily nor secondarily liable for any violations of the Securities Act. The allegations against all Respondents with the exception of Mr. Simmons must be dismissed.

DATED this 26th day of April, 1999.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

10

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

ROSHKA HEYMAN & DEWULF, PLC

By_

Paul J. Roshka, Jr.

Alan S. Baskin

Two Arizona Center

4 00 North 5th Street, Suite 1000

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Attorneys for Respondents

ORIGINAL and ten copies of the foregoing hand-delivered this 26th day of April, 1999 to:

Docket Control

Arizona Corporation Commission

1200 West Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

COPY of the foregoing hand-delivered this 26th day of April, 1999 to:

Mark C. Knops Senior Counsel

Securities Division

Arizona Corporation Commission

1300 West Washington, 3rd Floor

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Hearing Officer

Hearing Division

Arizona Corporation Commission

1200 West Washington

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Robert A. Zumoff

Office of the Attorney General

1275 West Washington

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	İ
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

COPY of the foregoing mailed this 26th day of April, 1999 to:
Chris R. Youtz Sirianni & Youtz 3410 Columbia Center 710 Fifth Avenue Seattle, Washington 98104-7032 Counsel for Respondents
roshka/tokyo/pl post-hr mm.doc